

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A spacer grid (10) for placing and supporting a plurality of longitudinal fuel rods (125) in a nuclear reactor fuel assembly, comprising a plurality of inner strips (30) intersecting each other to form a plurality of guide tube cells (15) to receive guide tubes (13) therein and a plurality of fuel rod cells (26) to receive the fuel rods (125) therein, with a plurality of mixing blades (27) projecting upward from the inner strips (30) at intersections of the inner strips (30); and a plurality of perimeter strips (40) each of which comprises a plurality of unit strips cell walls including intermediate cell walls (40') and corner cell walls (40"), the perimeter strips (40) to encircle encircling the intersecting inner strips (30) and the corner cell walls two unit strips (40") to form forming outermost corner cells of the spacer grid (10), with a grid spring (50) provided on each of the unit strips cell walls (40', 40"), the grid spring (50) comprising:
  - a vertical opening (53) formed at a central area of each of the cell walls unit strips;
  - a vertical support part (51) extending vertically in the vertical opening (53) between central portions of top and bottom edges of the vertical opening (53) ; and
  - a fuel rod support part (52) provided at a central portion of the vertical support part (51), the fuel rod support part (52) being bent to have an outward rounded cross-section a conformal support surface which is conformal to a fuel rod supported by the grid spring.

2. (currently amended) The spacer grid (10) according to

claim 1, wherein the vertical support part (51) is bent at two steps along substantially horizontal bending lines, and the fuel rod support part (52) is bent to be equiangular conformal with the fuel rods (125), thus accomplishing a uniform contact pressure distribution when the fuel rod support part (52) is in contact with each of the fuel rods (125).

3. (currently amended) The spacer grid (10) according to claim 1, wherein each of the ~~unit strips~~ intermediate cell walls (40') ~~having has~~ a coolant flow guide vane (57) and a guide tap (58) on an upper edge thereof such that a plurality of coolant flow guide vanes (57) and a plurality of guide taps (58) are alternately arranged along an upper edge of each of the ~~unit strips~~ intermediate cell walls (40'), and each of the ~~unit strips~~ corner cell walls (40") having either a coolant flow guide vane (57) or a guide tap (58) on an upper edge thereof to complete an alternate arrangement of the coolant flow guide vanes (57) and the guide taps (58), in cooperation with the ~~unit strips~~ intermediate cell walls (40').

4. (currently amended) The spacer grid (10) according to claim 3, wherein each of the plurality of ~~unit strips~~ intermediate cell walls (40') has two guide taps (58) projecting downward at both corners on a lower edge of each of the ~~unit strips~~ intermediate cell walls (40'), and each of the plurality of ~~unit strips~~ corner cell walls (40") has a guide tap (58) projecting downward on a lower edge of each of the ~~unit strip~~ corner cell walls (40").

5. (previously presented) The spacer grid (10) according to claim 3, wherein each of the coolant flow guide vanes (57) is bent toward a center of the spacer grid (10), with a width of each of the guide vanes (57) reducing from a position at which each of the guide vanes (57) is initially bent, each of the guide vanes (57) has a tapered shape, with a peak of each of the guide vanes (57) being rounded.

6. (previously presented) The spacer grid (10) according to claim 3, wherein each of the guide taps (58) is bent toward the center of the spacer grid (10), and is rounded at a bent tip thereof to form an arc-shaped edge.

7. (new) The spacer grid according to claim 1, further comprising inner grid springs on the inner strips, wherein the inner grid springs comprise an opening formed in the inner strips, an inner support part extending in the opening between edges of the opening, and an inner fuel rod support part provided on the inner support part, the fuel rod support part being bent to have a conformal support surface which is conformal to a fuel rod supported by the grid spring, wherein the vertical support part and the inner support part are different in structure.

8. (new) The spacer grid according to claim 7, wherein the vertical support part has a higher spring strength than the inner support part.